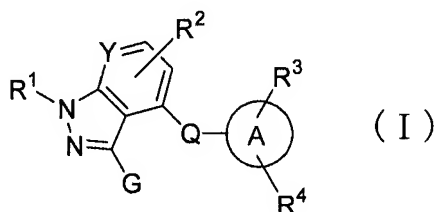


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a dihydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a carboxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, -J-N(R<sup>5</sup>)-Z<sup>1</sup>, -J-CON(R<sup>5</sup>)-Z<sup>1</sup>, or any of the following substituents (a) to (d) which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group  $\alpha$  on the ring;

(a) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl group, (b) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, (c) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group or (d) a ~~C<sub>1-6</sub> aryl(C<sub>6-10</sub> alkyl)~~ C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group,

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a halogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylthio group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>2-</sub>

<sub>6</sub> alkenyl) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, a carboxy group, a carboxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a carboxy(C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl) group, a carboxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a carboxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl(C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfinyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, -U-V-W-N(R<sup>6</sup>)-Z<sup>2</sup>, or any of the following substituents (i) to (xxviii) which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group  $\alpha$  on the ring;

(i) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, (ii) C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-O-, (iii) C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-S-, (iv) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, (v) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, (vi) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, (vii) a heteroaryl group, (viii) heteroaryl-O-, (ix) heteroaryl-S-, (x) a heteroaryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, (xi) a heteroaryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, (xii) a heteroaryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, (xiii) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl group, (xiv) C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl-O-, (xv) C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl-S-, (xvi) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, (xvii) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, (xviii) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, (xix) a heterocycloalkyl group, (xx) heterocycloalkyl-O-, (xxi) heterocycloalkyl-S-, (xxii) a heterocycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, (xxiii) a heterocycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, (xxiv) a heterocycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, (xxv) an aromatic cyclic amino group, (xxvi) an aromatic cyclic amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, (xxvii) an aromatic cyclic amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, or (xxviii) an aromatic cyclic amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group,

J represents a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group which may have a hydroxy group, or a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylene group;

U represents -O-, -S- or a single bond and with the proviso that at least one of V and W is not a single bond when U is -O- or -S-[D]];

V represents a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group which may have a hydroxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylene group or a single bond;

W represents -CO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -C(=NH)- or a single bond;

Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl) group, a formyl group, -R<sup>A</sup>, -COR<sup>B</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>B</sup>, -CON(R<sup>C</sup>)R<sup>D</sup>, -CSN(R<sup>C</sup>)R<sup>D</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>A</sup> or -C(=NR<sup>E</sup>)N(R<sup>F</sup>)R<sup>G</sup>;

R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>A</sup>, R<sup>C</sup> and R<sup>D</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group which may have any 1 to 5 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group β or any of the following substituents (xxix) to (xxxii) which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group α;

(xxix) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, (xxx) a heteroaryl group, (xxxi) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl group or (xxxii) a heterocycloalkyl group,

or both of Z<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> or both of Z<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group α;

or R<sup>C</sup> and R<sup>D</sup> bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group α;

R<sup>B</sup> represents a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> arylsulfonylamino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group which may have any 1 to 5 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group β or any of the following substituents (xxxiii) to (xxxvi) which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group α;

(xxxiii) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, (xxxiv) a heteroaryl group, (xxxv) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl group or (xxxvi) a heterocycloalkyl group,

R<sup>E</sup>, R<sup>F</sup> and R<sup>G</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> acyl group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl) group, a nitro group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a carbamimidoyl group or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group which may have any 1 to 5 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group  $\beta\alpha$ ;

or R<sup>E</sup> and R<sup>F</sup> bind together to form an ethylene group;

or R<sup>F</sup> and R<sup>G</sup> bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have a substituent selected from the later identified substituent group  $\alpha$ ;

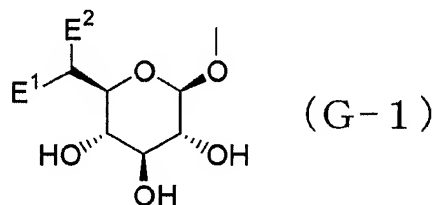
Y represents CH or N;

Q represents -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-, -C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylene-, -C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylene-, -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-O-, -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-S-, -O-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-, -S-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-, -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-O-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-, -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-S-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-, -CON(R<sup>7</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>7</sup>)CO-, -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-CON(R<sup>7</sup>)- or -CON(R<sup>7</sup>)-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene-;

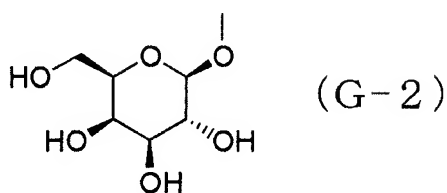
R<sup>7</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

ring A represents a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group or a heteroaryl group;

G represents a group represented by a formula:



or a formula:



;

E<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom or a hydroxy group;

E<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a methyl group or a hydroxymethyl group;

substituent group  $\alpha$ :

a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy)group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)amino group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, a sulfamoyl group and -CON(R<sup>H</sup>)R<sup>I</sup>

substituent group  $\beta$ :

a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)amino group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]amino group, an ureido group, a sulfamide group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)ureido group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]ureido group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)sulfamide group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]-sulfamide group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> acylamino group, an amino(C<sub>2-7</sub> acylamino) group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl

group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group, a carbamoyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino) group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, -CON(R<sup>H</sup>)R<sup>I</sup>, and any of the following substituents (xxxvii) to (xxxviii) which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the above substituent group  $\alpha$  on the ring;

(xxxvii) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, (xxxviii) C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-O-, (xxxix) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, (xxxx) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, (xxxxi) a heteroaryl group, (xxxxii) heteroaryl-O-, (xxxxiii) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl group, (xxxxiv) C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl-O-, (xxxxv) a heterocycloalkyl group, (xxxxvi) heterocycloalkyl-O-, (xxxxvii) an aliphatic cyclic amino group or (xxxxviii) an aromatic cyclic amino group

R<sup>H</sup> and R<sup>I</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group  $\gamma$ ;

or both of R<sup>H</sup> and R<sup>I</sup> bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group  $\delta$ ;

substituent group  $\gamma$ :

a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)amino group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]amino group, an ureido group, a sulfamide group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)ureido group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]ureido group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)sulfamide group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]sulfamide group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> acylamino group, an amino(C<sub>2-7</sub> acylamino) group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group, a carbamoyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino) group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group and -CON(R<sup>J</sup>)R<sup>K</sup>

substituent group  $\delta$ :

a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)amino group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, a sulfamoyl group and -CON(R<sup>J</sup>)R<sup>K</sup>

R<sup>J</sup> and R<sup>K</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from a hydroxy group, an amino group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)amino group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

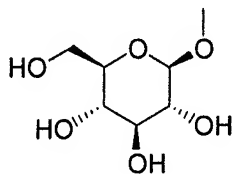
or both of R<sup>J</sup> and R<sup>K</sup> bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from a hydroxy group, an amino group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group and a carbamoyl group,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (previously presented): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 1, wherein Q represents an ethylene group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (previously presented): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 1, wherein Q represents a methylene group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (previously presented): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 1, wherein G represents a group represented by the formula:



, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (previously presented): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 1, wherein ring A represents a group derived from a benzene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyrazine ring or a pyridazine ring, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (previously presented): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ring A represents a benzene ring, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (previously presented): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ring A represents a pyridine ring, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (previously presented): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 5, wherein  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group;  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a halogen atom, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy



group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl group, or -U<sup>a</sup>-V<sup>a</sup>-W<sup>a</sup>-N(R<sup>6a</sup>)-Z<sup>2a</sup>-; U<sup>a</sup> represents -O- or a single bond and with the proviso that at least one of V<sup>a</sup> and W<sup>a</sup> does not represent a single bond when U<sup>a</sup> represents -O-; V<sup>a</sup> represents a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylene group or a single bond; W<sup>a</sup> represents -CO- or a single bond; Z<sup>2a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, -R<sup>Aa</sup>, -CON(R<sup>c</sup>)R<sup>D</sup>, or -C(=NR<sup>E</sup>)N(R<sup>F</sup>)R<sup>G</sup>; R<sup>6a</sup> and R<sup>Aa</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group which may have any 1 to 5 groups selected from the later identified substituent group β; R<sup>C</sup> and R<sup>D</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group which may have any 1 to 5 groups selected from the later identified substituent group β, or any of the following substituents (xxix) to (xxxii) which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group α;

(xxix) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, (xxx) a heteroaryl group, (xxxi) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl group or (xxxii) a heterocycloalkyl group,

or R<sup>C</sup> and R<sup>D</sup> bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group α; R<sup>E</sup>, R<sup>F</sup> and R<sup>G</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> acyl group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl) group, a nitro group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a carbamimidoyl group or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group which may have any 1 to 5 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group β; or R<sup>E</sup> and R<sup>F</sup> bind together to form an ethylene group; or R<sup>F</sup> and R<sup>G</sup> bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have a substituent selected from the following substituent group α;

substituent group α:

a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy)group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)amino group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino (C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl) group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, a sulfamoyl group and -CON(R<sup>H</sup>)R<sup>I</sup>

substituent group β:

a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a halo(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, a hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, an amino(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)amino group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]amino group, an ureido group, a sulfamide group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)ureido group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]ureido group, a mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)sulfamide group, a mono or di[hydroxy(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)]-sulfamide group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> acylamino group, an amino(C<sub>2-7</sub> acylamino) group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group, a carbamoyl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino) group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>2-7</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, -CON(R<sup>H</sup>)R<sup>I</sup>, and any of the following substituents (xxxvii) to (xxxxviii) which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the above substituent group α on the ring;

(xxxvii) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, (xxxviii) C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-O-, (xxxix) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) group, (xxxx) a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio) group, (xxxxi) a heteroaryl group, (xxxxii) heteroaryl-O-, (xxxxiii) a C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl group, (xxxxiv) C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl-O-, (xxxxv) a heterocycloalkyl group,

(xxxxvi) heterocycloalkyl-O-, (xxxxvii) an aliphatic cyclic amino group or (xxxxviii) an aromatic cyclic amino group,

$R^H$  and  $R^I$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group  $\gamma$ ; or both of  $R^H$  and  $R^I$  bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from the later identified substituent group  $\delta$ ;

substituent group  $\gamma$ :

a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, a halo( $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy) group, a hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy) group, an amino( $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy) group, a mono or di( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)amino group, a mono or di[hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)]amino group, an ureido group, a sulfamide group, a mono or di( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)ureido group, a mono or di[hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)]ureido group, a mono or di( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)sulfamide group, a mono or di[hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)]sulfamide group, a  $C_{2-7}$  acylamino group, an amino( $C_{2-7}$  acylamino) group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylsulfonyl group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylsulfonylamino group, a carbamoyl( $C_{1-6}$  alkylsulfonylamino) group, a carboxy group, a  $C_{2-7}$  alkoxycarbonyl group and  $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^J)\text{R}^K$

substituent group  $\delta$ :

a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, a halo( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl) group, a halo( $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy) group, a hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl) group, a  $C_{2-7}$  alkoxycarbonyl( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl) group, a hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy) group, an amino( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl) group, an amino( $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy) group, a mono or di( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)amino group, a mono or di[hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)]amino group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylsulfonyl group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylsulfonylamino group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylsulfonylamino( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl) group, a carboxy group, a  $C_{2-7}$  alkoxycarbonyl group, a sulfamoyl group and  $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^J)\text{R}^K$

$R^J$  and  $R^K$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from a hydroxy group, an amino group, a mono or di( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)amino group, a  $C_{2-7}$  alkoxy carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

or both of  $R^J$  and  $R^K$  bind together with the neighboring nitrogen atom to form an aliphatic cyclic amino group which may have any 1 to 3 substituents selected from a hydroxy group, an amino group, a mono or di( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl)amino group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl) group, a  $C_{2-7}$  alkoxy carbonyl group, a  $C_{2-7}$  alkoxy carbonyl( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl) group and a carbamoyl group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (previously presented): A nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 5 or 8, wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$  alkyl) group, or  $-J^a-CONH_2$ ;  $J^a$  represents a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene group;  $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a nitrogen-containing fused-ring derivative as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 11 - 16. (canceled).

17. (original): A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein the dosage form is sustained release formulation.

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Claims 18-35 (canceled).